

100 YEARS IN
THE FUTURE

From the Journal
of Doctor Cain,
Archeologist...

April 8th. 21XX
Still nothing. I've been sifting through the dirt
since March, trying to find a fossil record which
would verify my findings.

So far I've come up empty. Tomorrow I'll move
my dig to a new site. Maybe I'll have better luck.

April 9th.
Set up camp at the new site and laid out a preliminary gridwork
for the dig. I got some odd readings at location E-46. It looks
like something metallic is buried several meters below the
surface. I think I'll begin there tomorrow.

April 10th.
I can't believe what I've found! Several meters below the surface
were the remains of a lab. Although most of it was damaged, I
did manage to find papers that indicate that it belonged to the
famous robot designer DR. THOMAS LIGHT. I've begun to
review what is left of Dr. Light's notes, and it looks like he was
onto a major breakthrough. The notes keep referring to "THE
CAPSULE"...

THE

FACTOR

PART 1

WRITER: IAN FLYNN
LINE ART: PATRICK SPAZIANTE
COLOR ART: MATT HERMS
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN

April 13th.
I found it!

"X" IS THE FIRST OF A NEW GENERATION OF ROBOTS WHICH CONTAIN AN INNOVATIVE NEW FEATURE--THE ABILITY TO *THINK, FEEL, AND MAKE HIS OWN DECISIONS*. HOWEVER, THIS ABILITY COULD BE VERY DANGEROUS. IF "X" WERE TO BREAK THE FIRST RULE OF ROBOTICS--"A ROBOT MUST NEVER HARM A HUMAN BEING"--THE RESULTS WILL BE DISASTROUS, AND I FEAR THAT NO FORCE ON EARTH COULD STOP HIM.

APPROXIMATELY 30 YEARS WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE WE CAN SAFELY CONFIRM HIS RELIABILITY. UNFORTUNATELY, I WILL NOT LIVE TO SEE THAT DAY, NOR DO I HAVE ANYONE TO CARRY ON MY WORK. THEREFORE, I HAVE DECIDED TO SEAL HIM IN HIS *CAPSULE*, WHICH WILL TEST HIS INTERNAL SYSTEMS UNTIL HIS RELIABILITY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB THE CAPSULE UNTIL THAT TIME.

The capsule was hidden underneath a collapsed ceiling. Even underneath all the rubble, it has remained intact and was still running some sort of diagnostic test when I found it. There was a warning...

"X" POSSESSES GREAT RISKS AS WELL AS GREAT POSSIBILITIES. I CAN ONLY HOPE FOR THE BEST. THIS IS THOMAS LIGHT, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 20XX.

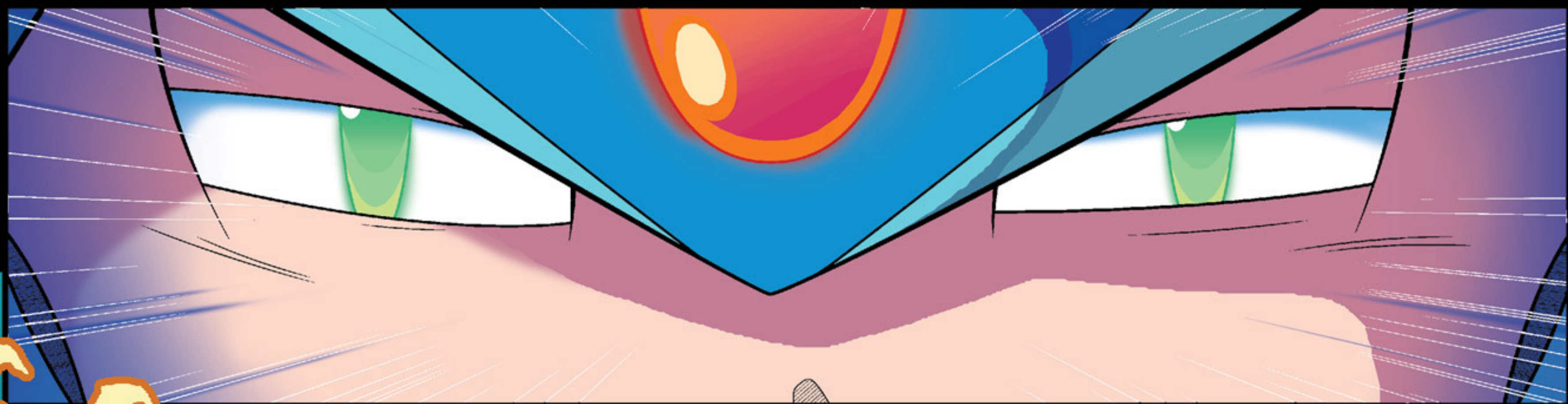
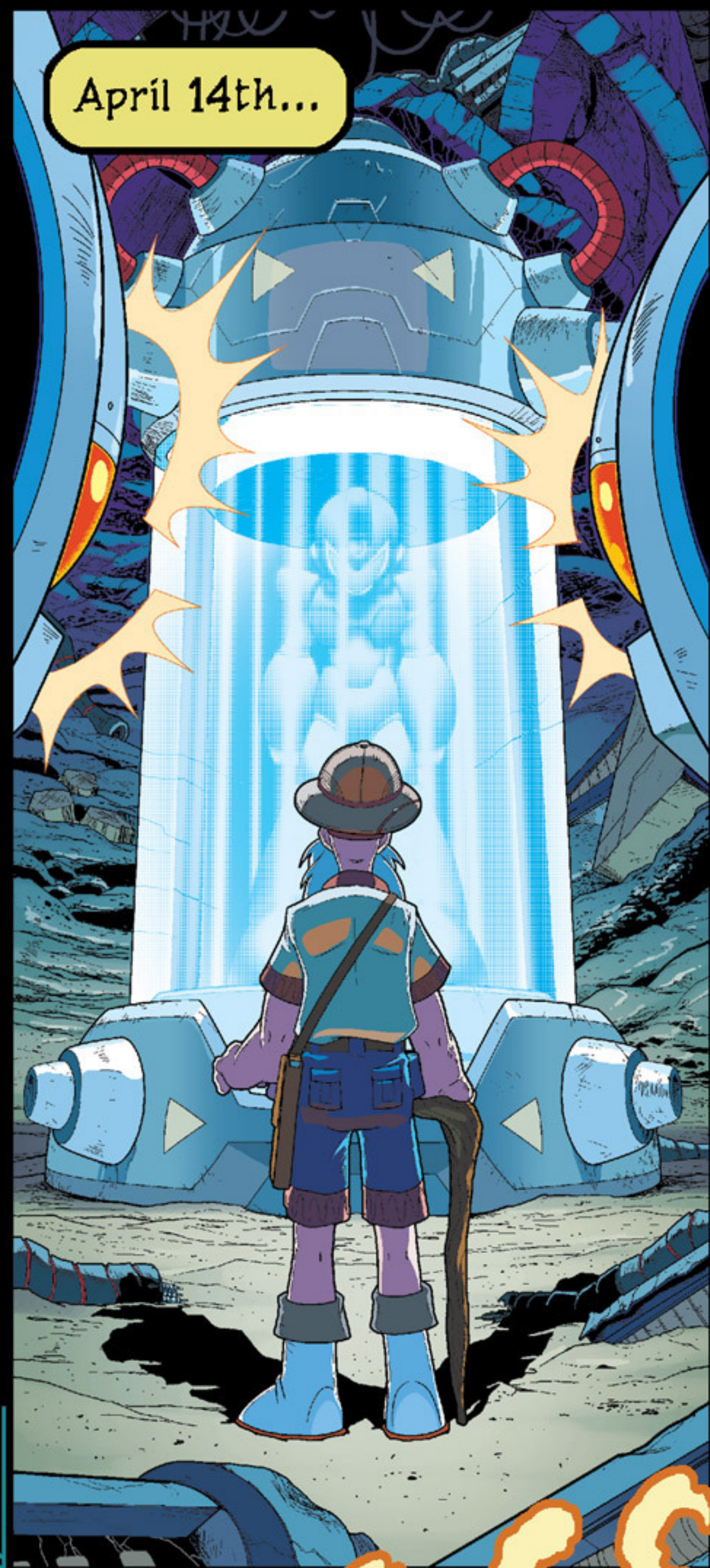
"THIRTY YEARS?" IT'S BEEN CONSIDERABLY LONGER THAN THAT, DOCTOR. DOES THAT MEAN IT'S SAFE TO OPEN IT, OR...?

...all the indicators on the capsule show green. It **SHOULD** be safe to open it.

Do I dare? Will this "X" even function after all this time?

CAN I REALLY LET THIS ... "LIVING" LEGACY STAY SEALED AWAY...?

April 14th...



...today I met "X." Not simply a robot, X is something totally different.

...HELLO?

WHO
...ARE
YOU?

At times, X seems more like a man than a machine.



April 15th.
Light was a genius! I've been going over his design notes, and they are a quantum leap beyond anything the world has ever seen.



Using them as a guide, I may be able to replicate his designs and integrate them into a new generation of robots. Doctor Light wanted to share these remarkable machines with the world, and I intend to see his dream fulfilled! I'll begin transporting X and the rest of Dr. Light's things back to my lab tomorrow.



November 22nd.
With X's help, I have completed the first "Replöid."

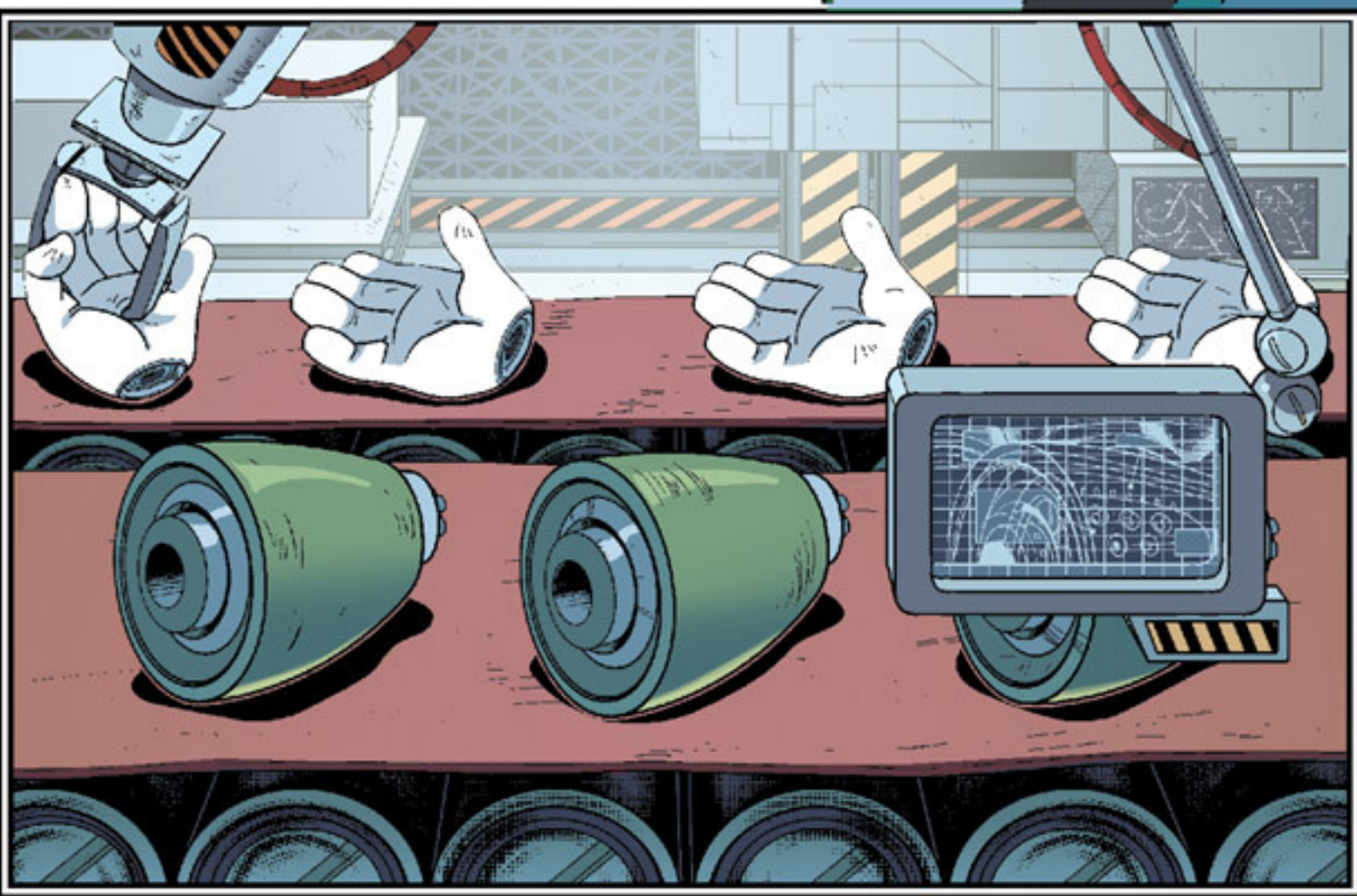
Although I don't completely understand how all of Dr. Light's systems work, I was able to make some minor modifications, and the replöid seems to be functioning perfectly.

And to think--some said my genius was wasted on archeology --ho-ho!

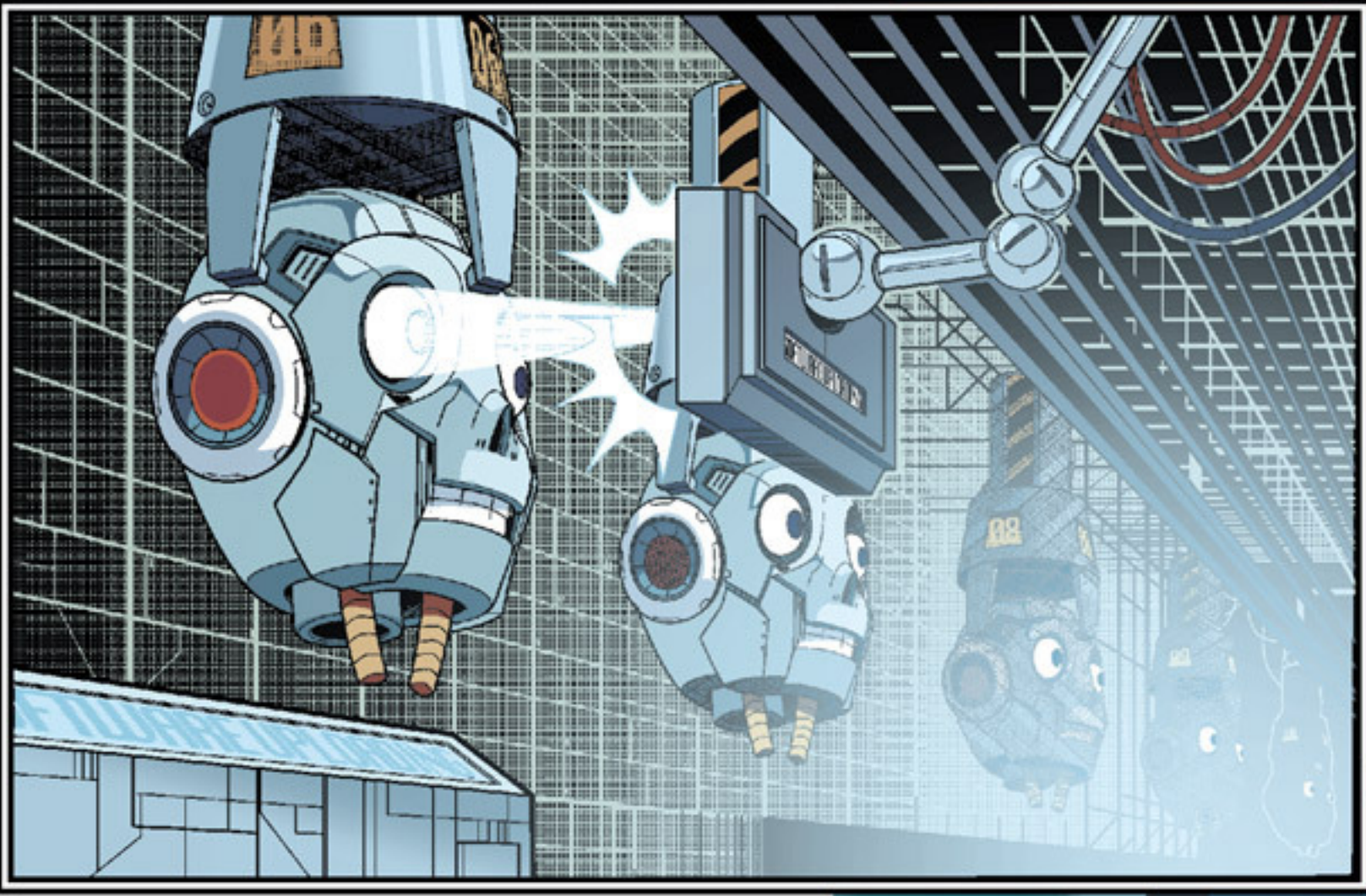
The replöid's strength and intelligence seem limitless, and he is able to make his own decisions.



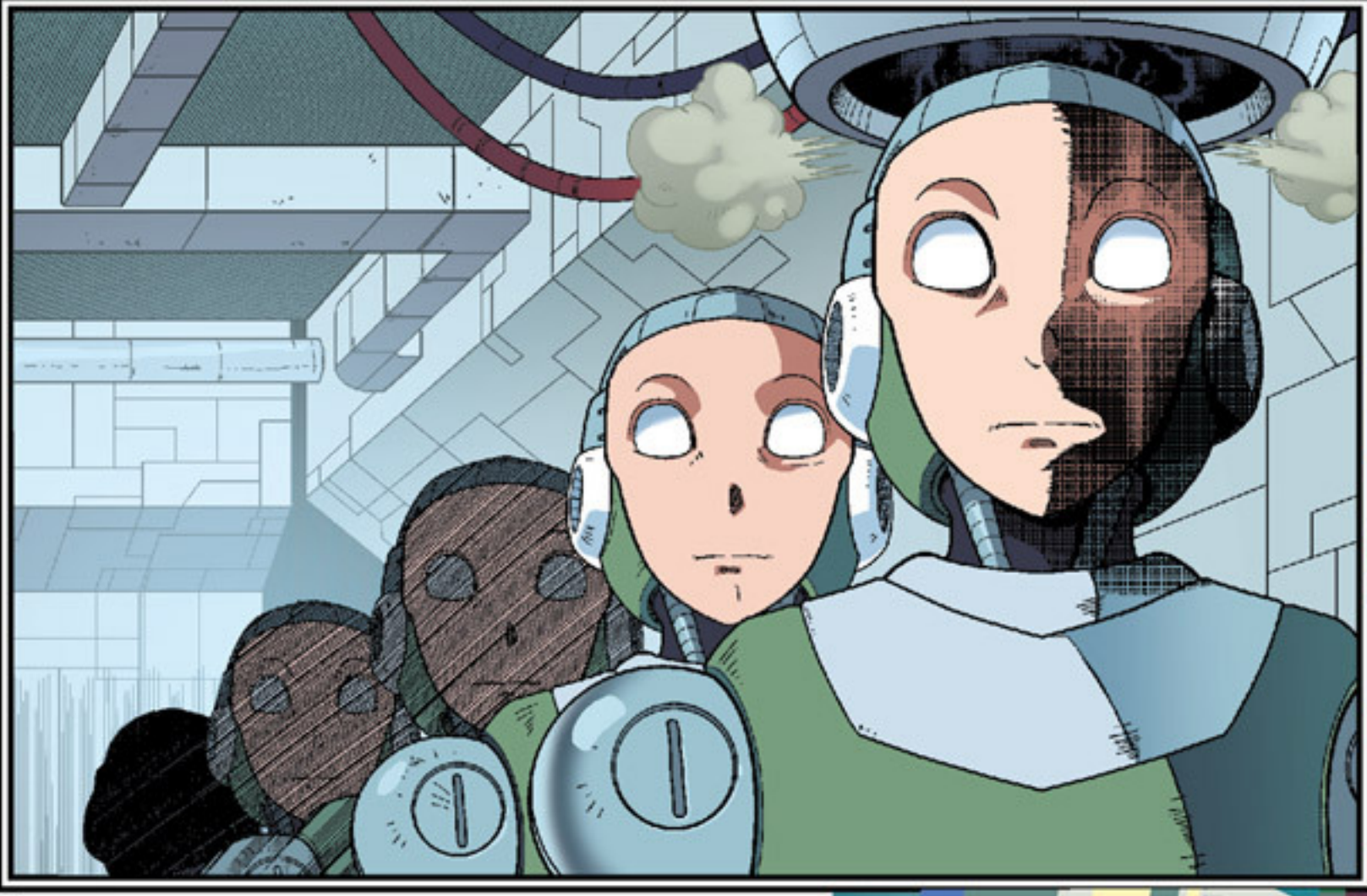
In fact, we got into our first argument. How intriguing!



January 3rd.
The new reploids have been running off the assembly line for several weeks. It's amazing how easily they have been able to adapt to even the most difficult jobs.

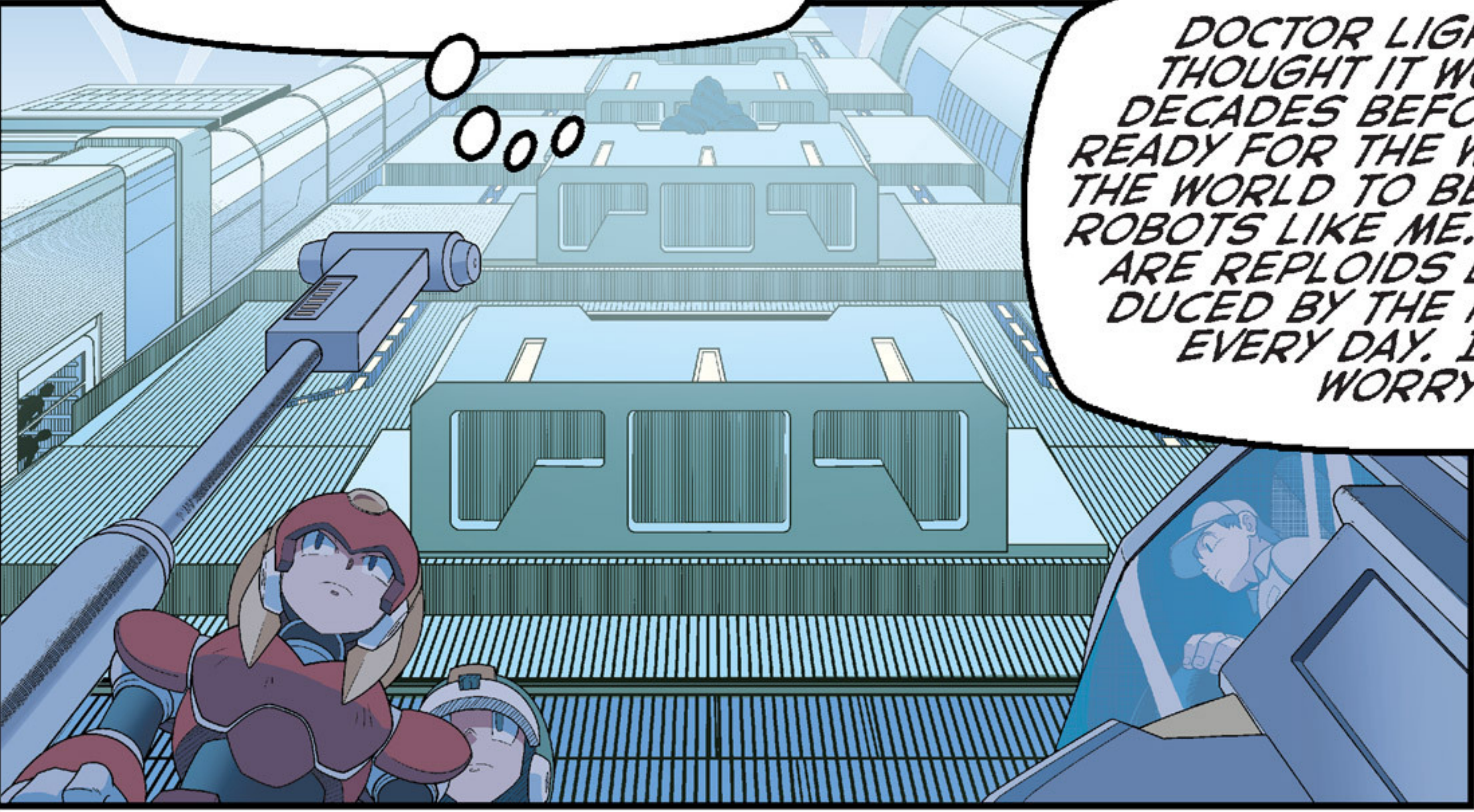


It still is a bit odd to see them working side-by-side with humans, but everyone seems to be happy to accept them.

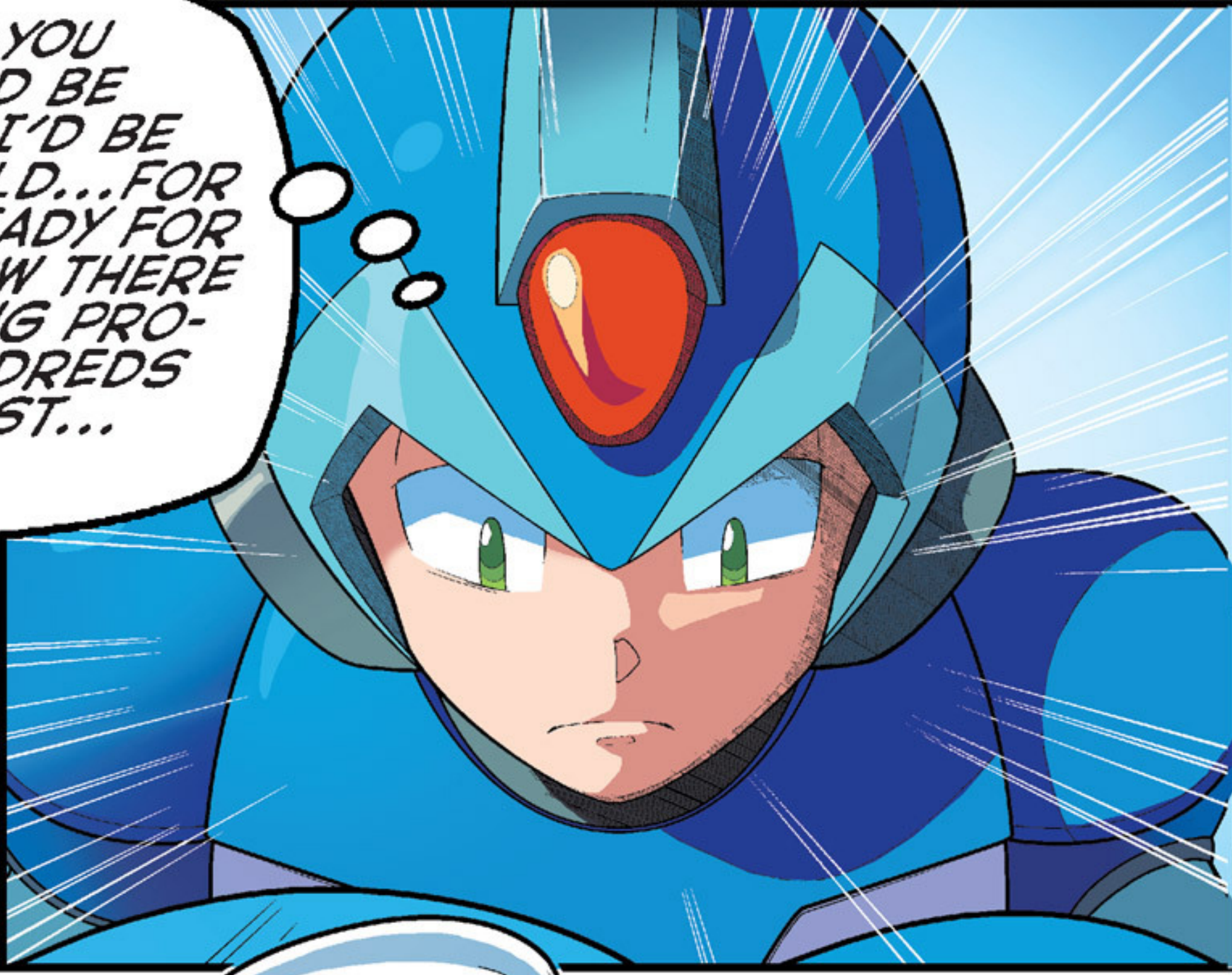


Doctor Light's dream has finally been realized, and I could not be prouder to have played my part in it all.

A WORLD WITH ROBOTS AND HUMANS WORKING AND LIVING TOGETHER...IT CAME ABOUT SO QUICKLY.



DOCTOR LIGHT... YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DECADES BEFORE I'D BE READY FOR THE WORLD...FOR THE WORLD TO BE READY FOR ROBOTS LIKE ME. NOW THERE ARE REPLOIDS BEING PRODUCED BY THE HUNDREDS EVERY DAY. I JUST... WORRY...



"...ARE WE MOVING FORWARD TOO FAST?"

NEXT TIME...
THE FUTURE GROWS DARKER!
ENTER--

THE MAVERICK HUNTERS!



MEGA-MAIL

WRITE TO US @: MEGA-MAIL c/o ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX # 419 MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419 E-MAIL: MEGAMAN@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Dear Mega-Mail,
I love the Ra Moon arc! It has been building up to this for some time.

It sure has! Even when you think it's over the ambitions of Ra Moon continue to cause chaos and mayhem in Mega Man's world!

I noticed at the beginning of the arc after the crossover Wily said something about controlled chaos. I was wondering if that was a deliberate reference to chaos control from the crossover. Did anyone else notice that?

Hmmmm... perhaps there was some relation... :)

Thanks for the awesome comics guys! Keep up the good work.

Micah G. from Virginia

P.S. I look forward to Mega Man X!

So long, Micah! Let us know what you thought of the first half of the Mega Man™ X story that debuted in this issue!

Dear Mega-Mail,
I love the storyline, and it just gets better and better. I can't wait to see what Mega Man is gonna do next!

Michael M. sent to

MegaMan@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the letter, Michael! Mega Man will be visiting all sorts of places in the future, so look forward to it!

Dear Mega-Mail,
I have followed the Mega Man™ comics since I discovered them in my freshman year of high school. Since then, I have waited eagerly for every new issue. I have every issue so far, and I'll always follow the Blue Bomber until the very end!

A loyal reader,

Archive "Kora" Wavelength sent to MegaMan@ArchieComics.com

PS: Hats off to all the wonderful artists for the beautiful comic pages and variant cover artwork, and to Ian Flynn for his AMAZING skill in writing these awesome story arcs!

Thanks for writing in, "Kora"! We appreciate your long-time support and kind words! We hope the comic brings you joy and excitement for many years to come!

That's all for now! We'll see y'all next time for part two of Shadows of the Moon and the X-Factor!

SEND YOUR
LETTERS TO MEGA-MAIL!
C/O ARCHIE COMIC
PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX #419
MAMARONECK, NY
10543-0419
E-MAIL: MEGAMAN@
ARCHIECOMICS.COM

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MEGA MAN™ 34 COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT



VARIANT EDITION BY
BEN BATES

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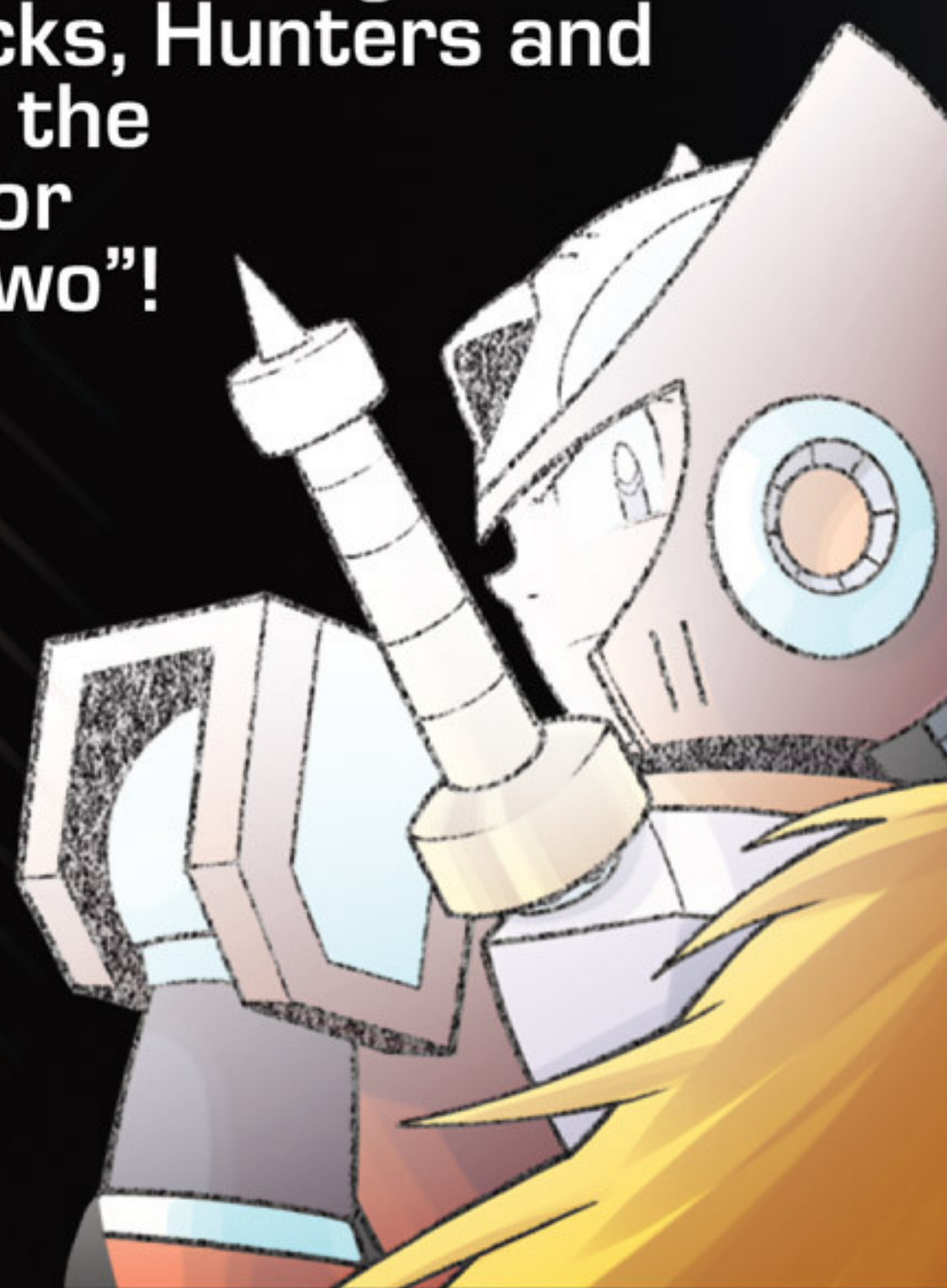
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THE EPIC STORY CONTINUES!

Come on back next month
for even more Mega Man™
X action including the
Mavericks, Hunters and
more in the
"X-Factor
- Part Two"!



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THE CITY OF
ARCADIA--IN THE
YEAR 21XX...

...REFERRED TO
BY MANY AS THE
CENTER OF THE
CIVILIZED WORLD.

THE X FACTOR PART 2

WRITER: IAN FLYNN
PENCILS: PATRICK SPAZIANTE
INKS: RICK BRYANT
COLORS: MATT HERMS
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN

MUCH OF ITS
SUCCESS IS THANKS
TO THE INVENTION OF
REPLOIDS.

UNLIKE THE ROBOT
MASTERS OF THE
LAST CENTURY, THE
REPLOIDS ARE FULLY
ABLE TO THINK, FEEL,
AND LIVE AS
INDIVIDUALS.

FOR THEIR
PART, THE
REPLOIDS
HAVE BECOME
A CRUCIAL
PART OF
EVERYDAY LIFE,
LIVING SIDE-
BY-SIDE WITH
HUMANITY.

BUT THE REPLOIDS
ARE STILL A VERY NEW
TECHNOLOGY. AND AS
WITH ANYTHING NEW...

OH, NO...
WHEN
DID THIS
HAPPEN?



...COME UNFORESEEN DANGERS.

ALMOST AN HOUR AGO. THESE MAVERICK INCIDENTS ARE GETTING OUT OF HAND.

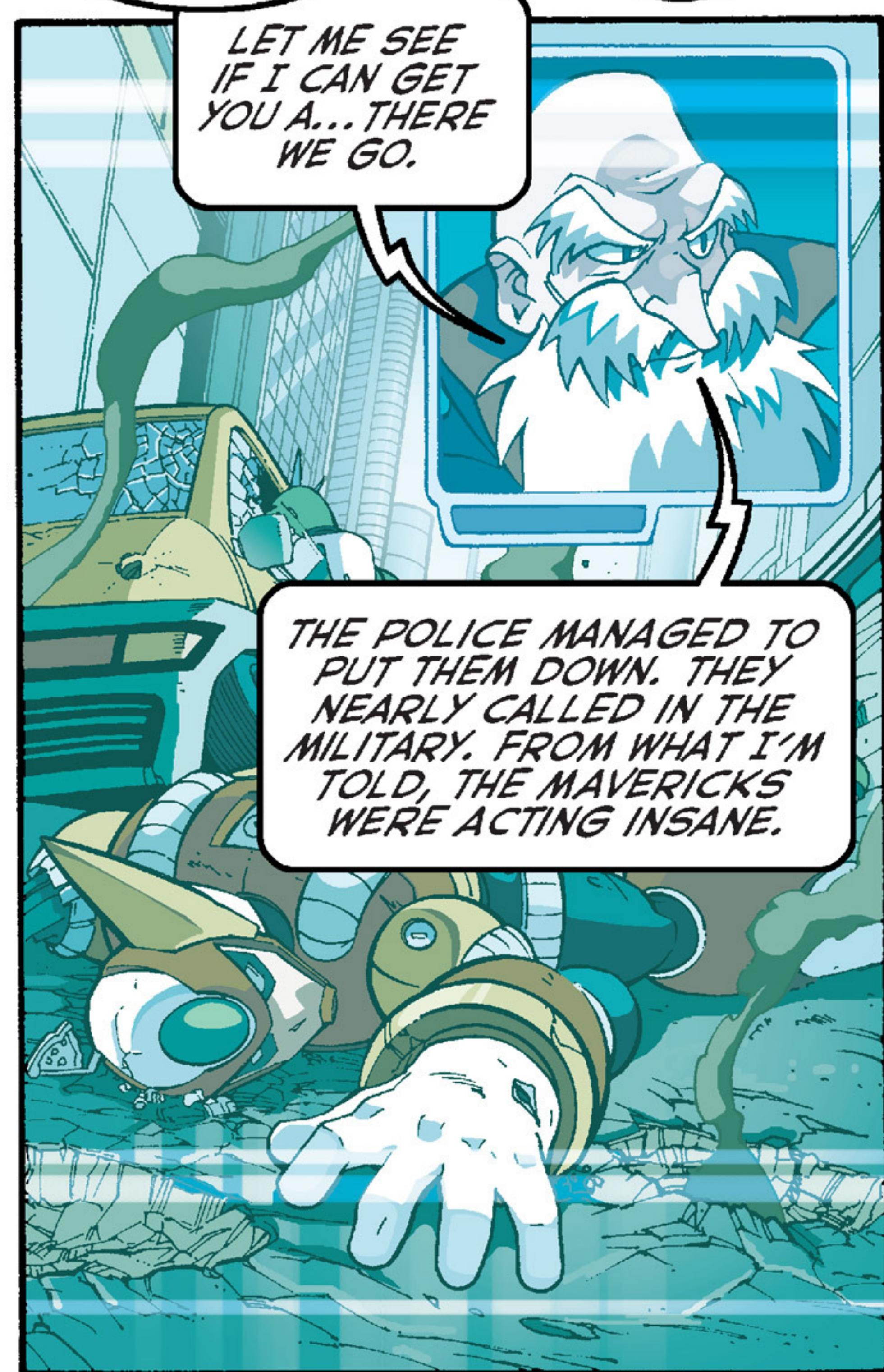
AND THIS TIME, IT WAS FATAL.



THAT'S...THAT'S HORRIBLE. WHAT HAPPENED TO... WAIT, "MAVERICK"?

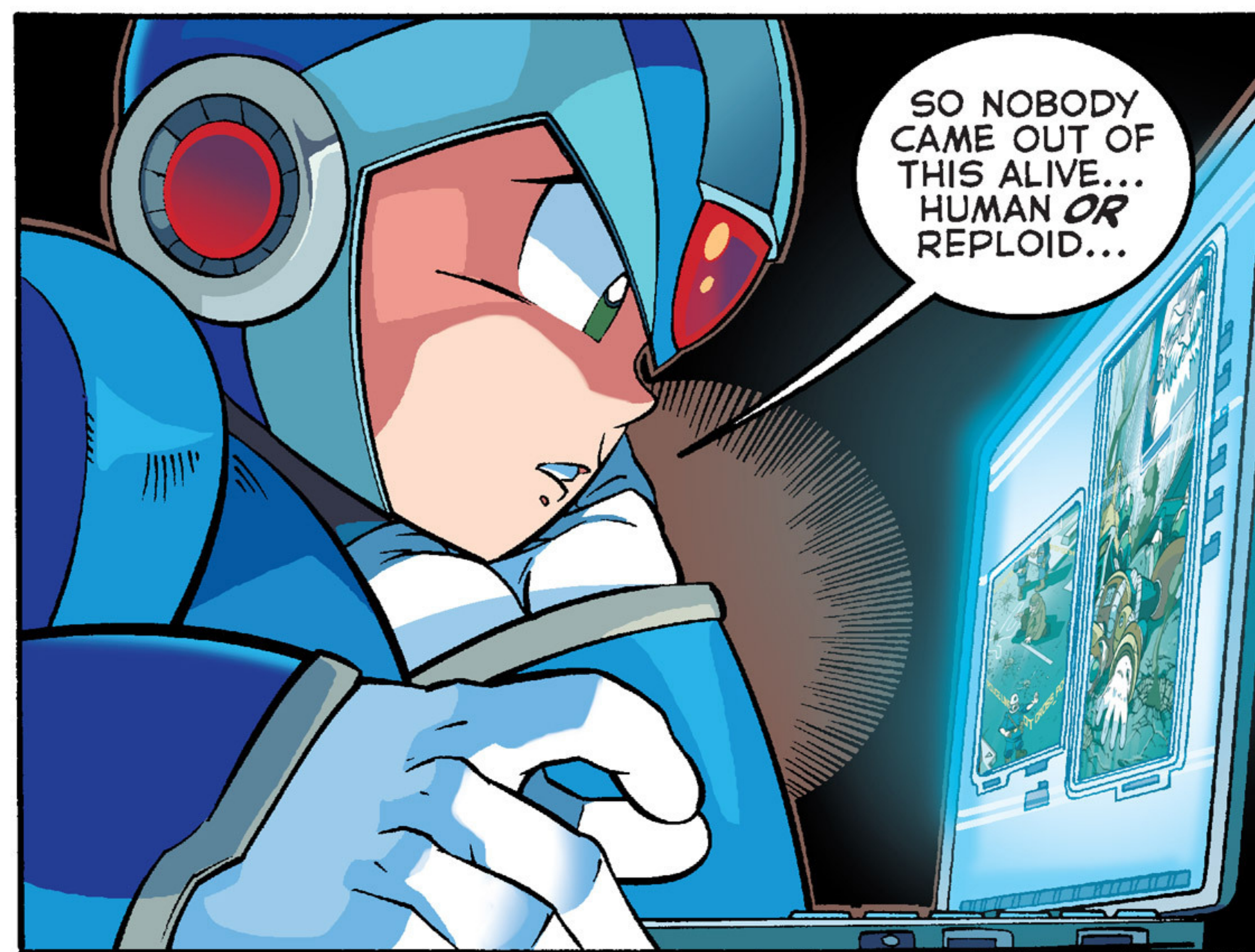
HM? OH, IT'S A BUZZWORD THAT'S BEING ATTACHED TO ANY IRREGULAR REPLOID BEHAVIOR.

HUH. ALL RIGHT--BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REPLOIDS THAT WERE INVOLVED?



LET ME SEE IF I CAN GET YOU A...THERE WE GO.

THE POLICE MANAGED TO PUT THEM DOWN. THEY NEARLY CALLED IN THE MILITARY. FROM WHAT I'M TOLD, THE MAVERICKS WERE ACTING INSANE.



SO NOBODY CAME OUT OF THIS ALIVE... HUMAN OR REPLOID...



I'M SORRY, X, BUT I'VE GOT TO GO. I'VE BEEN SUMMONED TO A HEARING ABOUT THE RECENT...

...INCIDENTS. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DROP IN...

"...I COULD USE THE SUPPORT."

...AND SOMEBODY HAS TO ANSWER FOR THIS, DR. CAIN.

ARCADIA COUNCIL CHAMBERS...

YOU INTRODUCED REPLOIDS TO THE WORLD. CAN *YOU* EXPLAIN WHAT'S GIVING RISE TO THESE MAVERICKS?

THERE'VE BEEN ONLY THREE INSTANCES SO FAR, MADAM COUNCILOR--

THREE TOO MANY!

ABSOLUTELY, FAR TOO MANY! BUT NOT ENOUGH TO DISCERN A PATTERN OR CAUSE.

IT COULD BE ANY NUMBER OF CAUSES: FAULTY WIRING IN THE BRAIN, BUGS OR GLITCHES WITHIN THE PERSONALITY CODING.

WHY DO SOME CHOOSE CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR? WHY DO SOME BECOME VIOLENT AND ACT INSANELY? REPLOIDS ARE ALL SO NEW, I DON'T THINK ANYONE HAS THE ANSWERS YET.

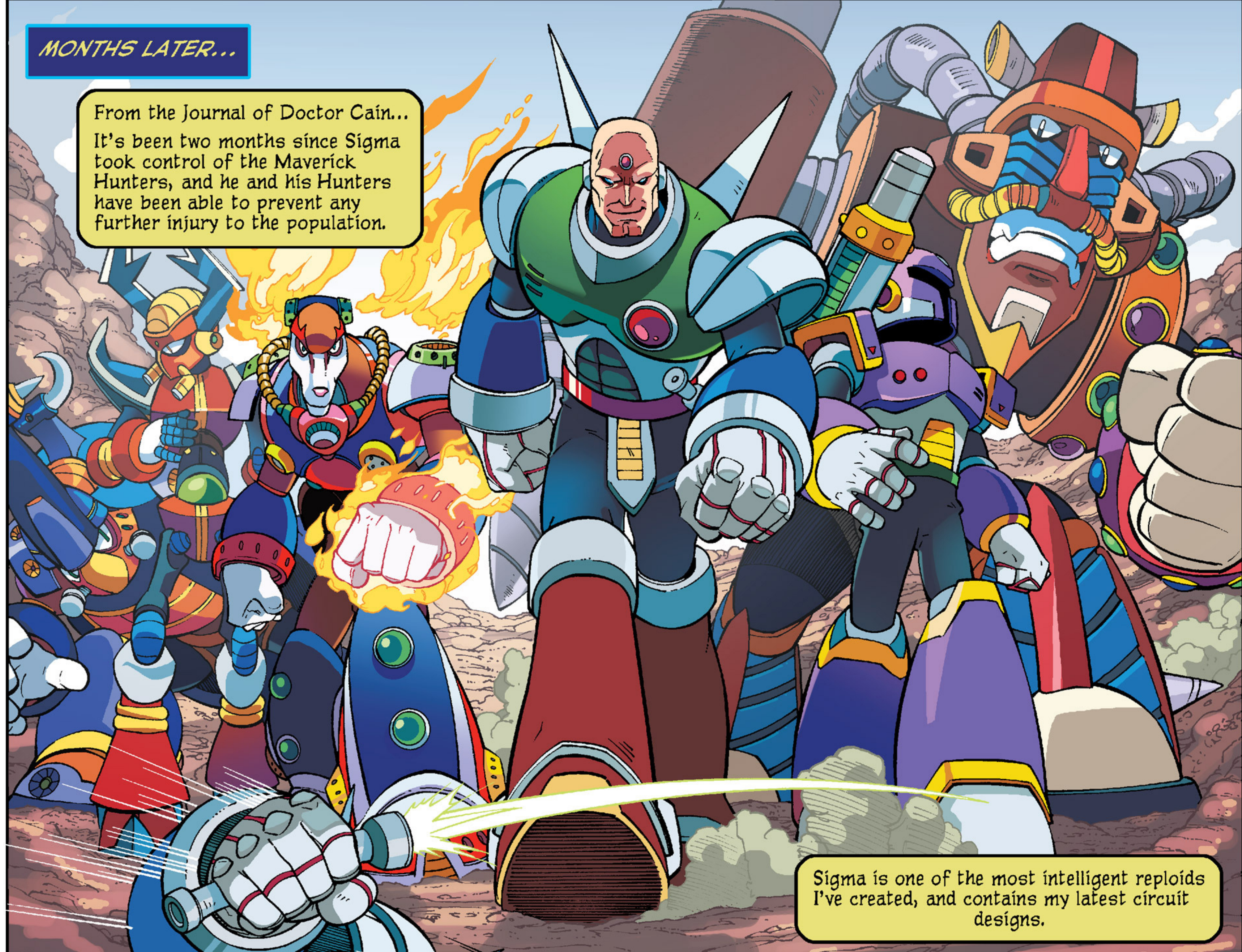
SHOULD WE SUSPEND CONSTRUCTION ON NEW REPLOIDS? AT LEAST UNTIL WE'VE DISCERNED ...THE PROBLEM?

THE MAVERICK INCIDENTS ARE A CONCERN, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO DERAIL ALL PRODUCTION. WHAT WE NEED IS A MEANS OF REGULATING THE PROBLEM.

AH! IF I MAY--I HAVE A FEW THOUGHTS ALONG THOSE LINES...

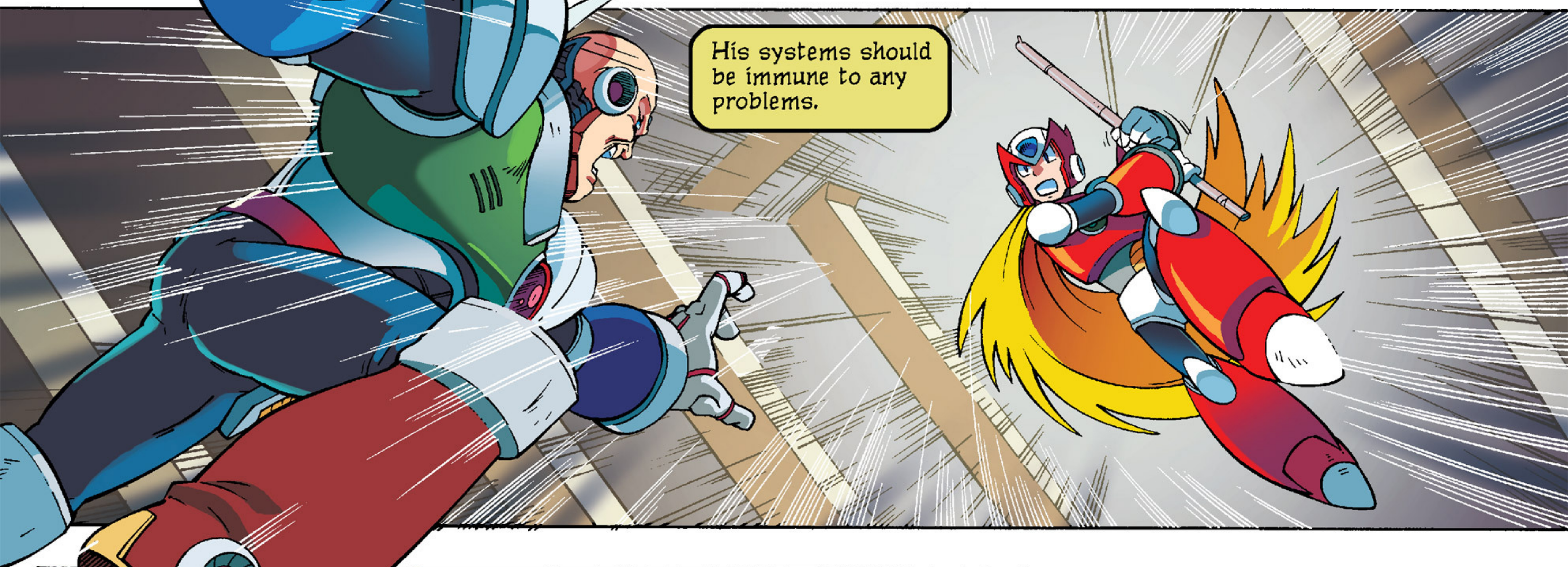
MONTHS LATER...

From the Journal of Doctor Cain...
It's been two months since Sigma took control of the Maverick Hunters, and he and his Hunters have been able to prevent any further injury to the population.

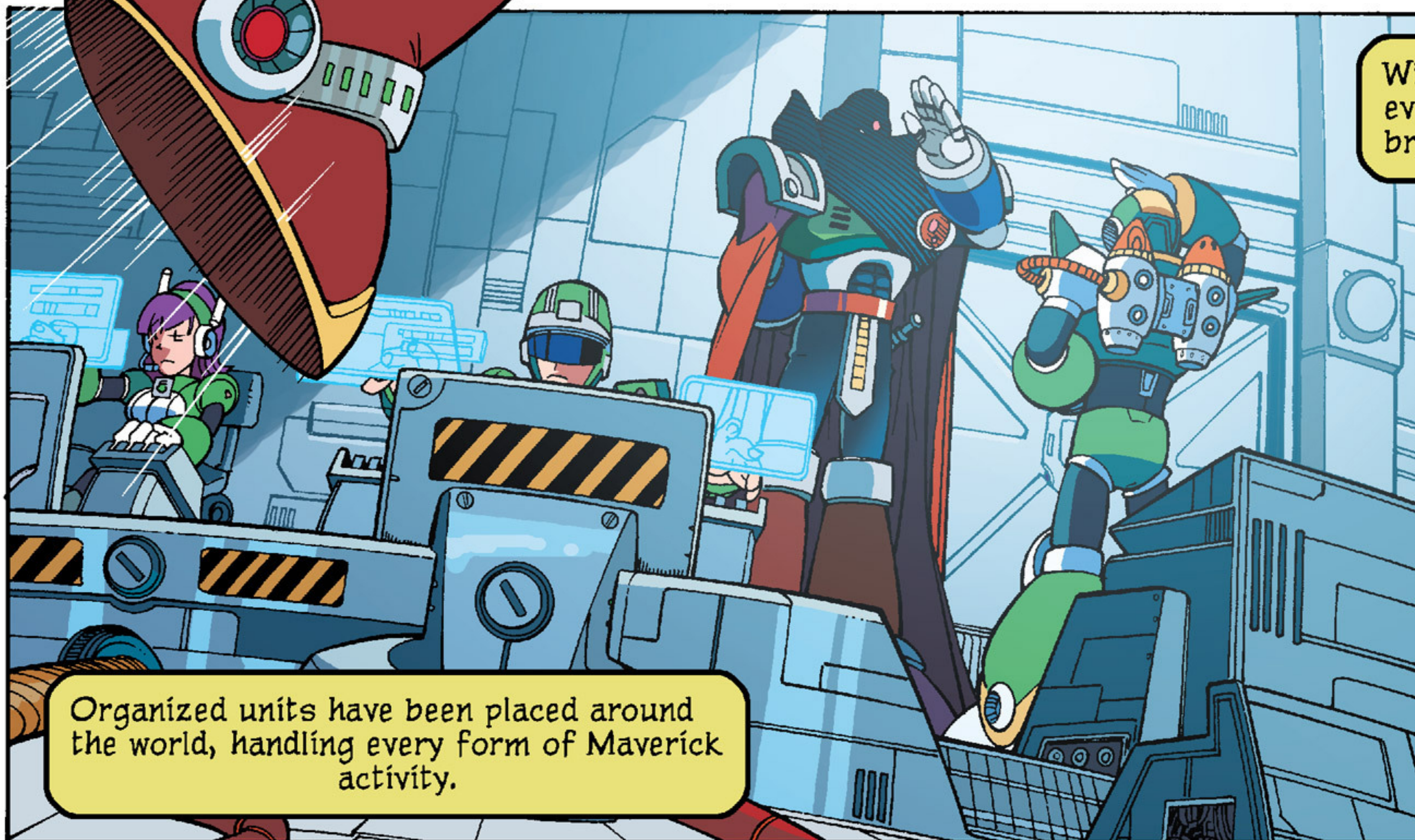


Sigma is one of the most intelligent reploids I've created, and contains my latest circuit designs.

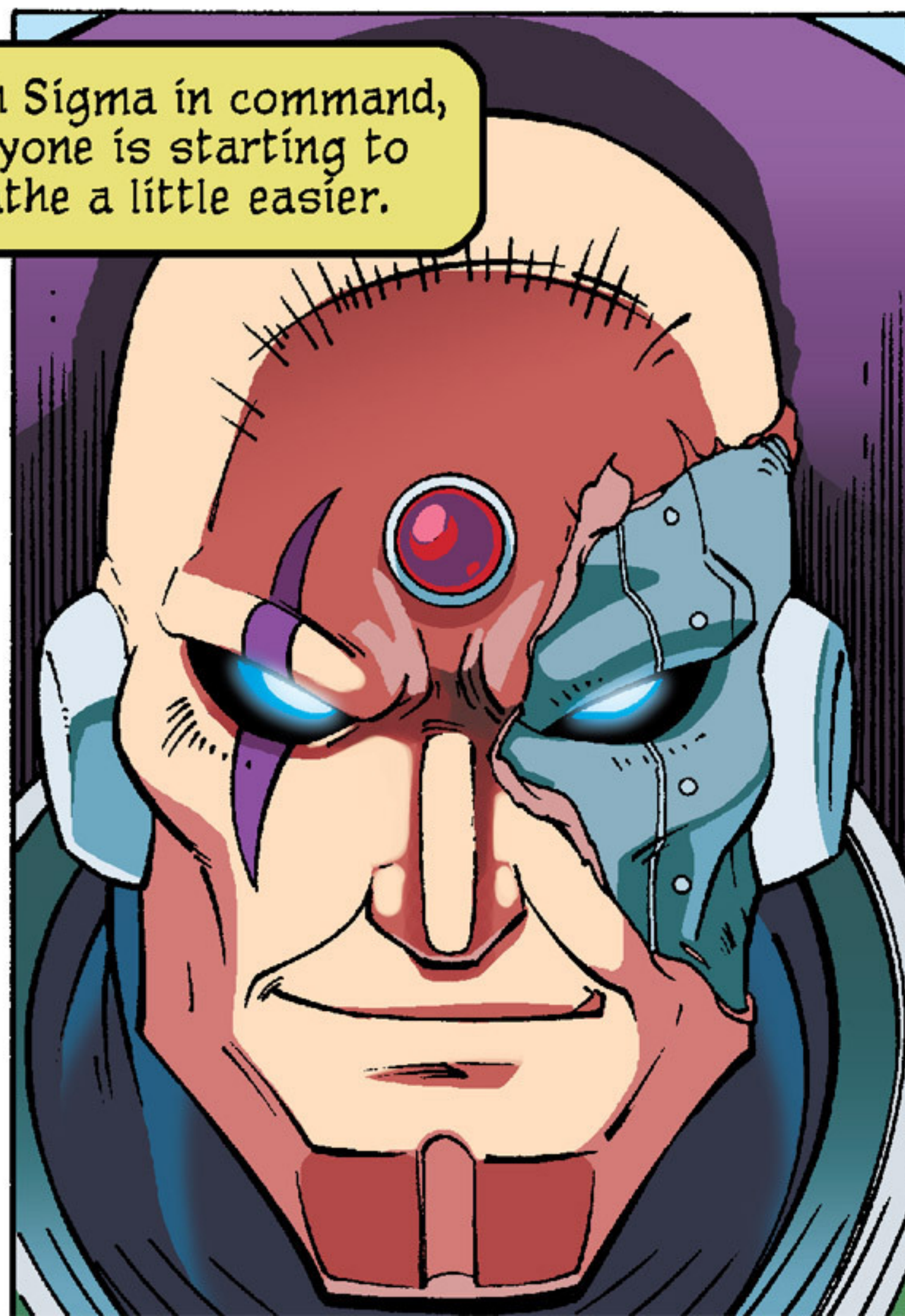
His systems should be immune to any problems.



With Sigma in command, everyone is starting to breathe a little easier.



Organized units have been placed around the world, handling every form of Maverick activity.





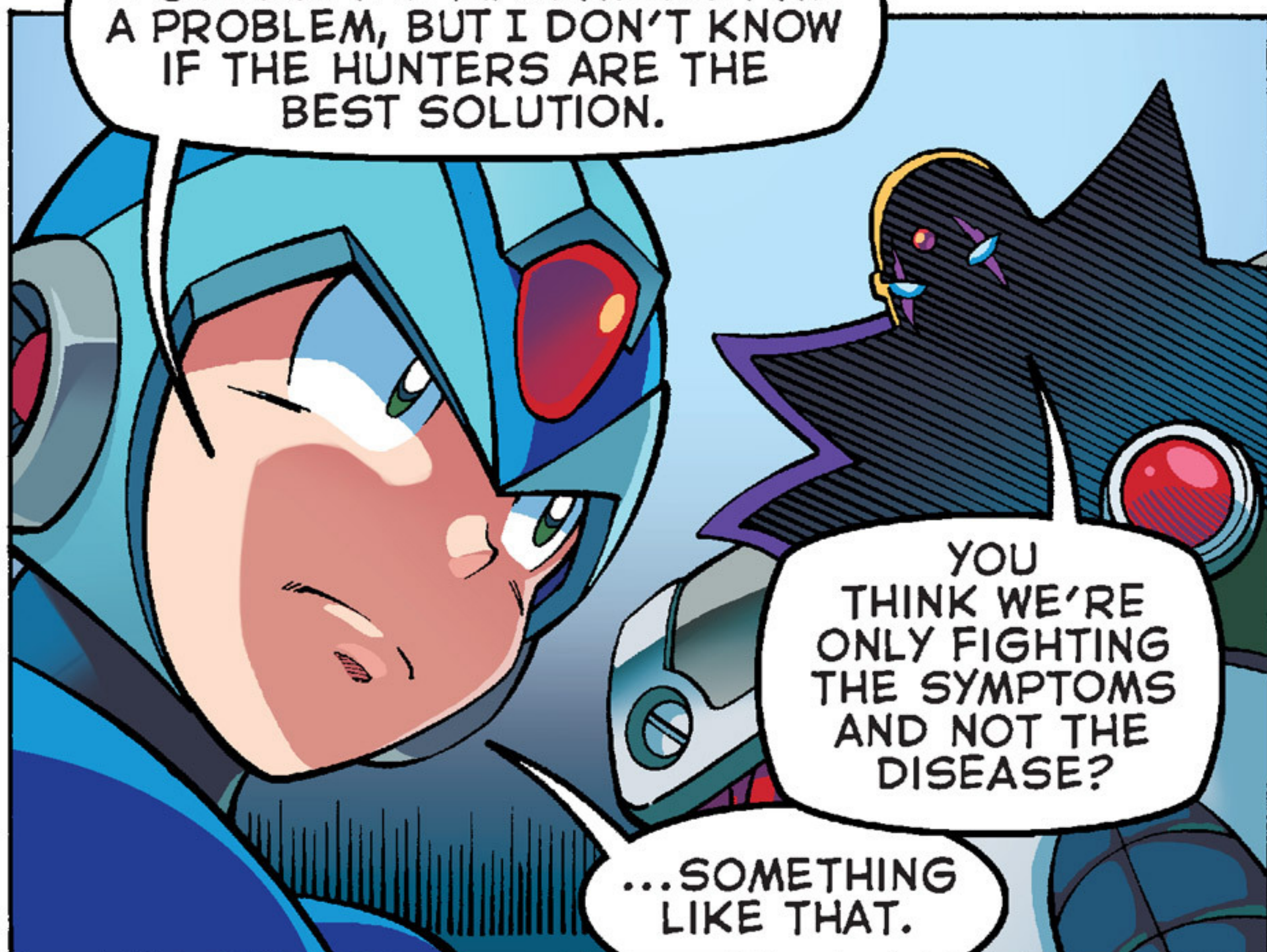
AH, X. YOU'VE BEEN COMING BY TO INSPECT OUR WORK A LOT RECENTLY. THINKING OF FINALLY JOINING MY HUNTERS?

I DON'T THINK I WANT TO BE IN A POSITION TO RETIRE A REPLOID, MAVERICK OR NOT.

THEN WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR?

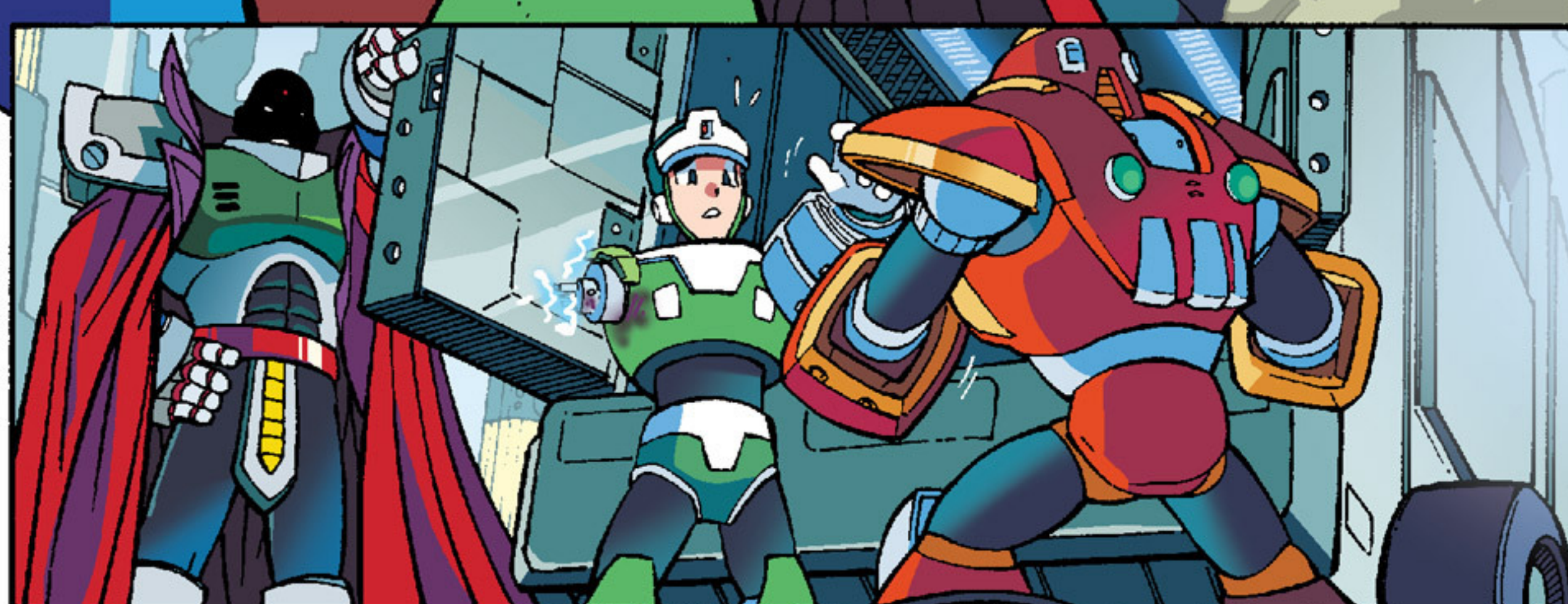


I'M...LOOKING FOR ANSWERS, I GUESS. THE MAVERICKS ARE A PROBLEM, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THE HUNTERS ARE THE BEST SOLUTION.



YOU THINK WE'RE ONLY FIGHTING THE SYMPTOMS AND NOT THE DISEASE?

...SOMETHING LIKE THAT.



X, IT SEEMS YOU FEEL MORE DEEPLY THAN ANY OF US. IT'S ONE OF THE MANY THINGS I FIND REMARKABLE ABOUT YOU.



IF THERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO FIND LASTING PEACE BETWEEN US AND THE HUMANS, I'M SURE **YOU'LL** FIND IT.



UNTIL THEN; I'LL KEEP US SAFE.

TO BE CONTINUED IN MEGA MAN #37--
DAWN OF X--part one!
DON'T MISS THE TIME-SPANNING X-OVER OF A LIFETIME!